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New economic development institute hailed

By LISA JACKSON

Daily News Staff Writer

5-10-89

State and community leaders hailed this morning's announcement that an Institute for Economic Development will be established at Western Kentucky University.

The institute, which eventually will be located off-campus, will assist businesses and help in the recruitment of others, said Western President Thomas Meredith.

Gov. Wallace Wilkinson announced his support for the project to more than 100 people at the Wetherby Administration Building this morning.

"Two of the subjects dearest to my heart — education and jobs — are allied today in a significant announcement and in a significant new project," Wilkinson said.

"Kentucky's future depends on our ability to meet the economic challenges of tomorrow," he said. Wilkinson called the economic development institute a "bold, new, innovative concept."

Wilkinson said Meredith and board of regents Chairman Joe Iracane came to him in the fall with the idea.

A committee of Western faculty will be established to detail the operation and procedures of the institute this summer, Meredith said.

The institute initially will be an expansion of what the university is now doing to assist businesses and industry. Western's Center for Industry and Technology has helped companies, particularly in Franklin and Glasgow, Meredith said.

"This institute will pull together all of those fragmented pieces," Wilkinson said.

"Now putting it all under one roof and making it more accessible is going to touch so many more people," Iracane said. "(It is hoped) it's going to be stimulus to bring new industry and business to Western Kentucky," he said.

Funding for the project will be recommended in the executive budget that will go before the General Assembly in 1990, Wilkinson said.

"We're going to do everything we're big enough to do to get it funded in the 1990 General Assembly," Wilkinson said.

State Rep. Jody Richards, D-Bowling Green, and state Rep. Billy Ray Smith, D-Bowling Green, attended the governor's announcement. Richards said he supports the project and will be in favor of funding.

"If it's reasonable, and I'm sure it will be, I'll be for it," Richards said.

Dennis Griffin, executive director of the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce, said he will use the institute as a tool for recruiting new industry. "We have a university with a lot of talent that is responding to the business sector," he said.

The institute also will provide access for existing industries who want advice or assistance, Griffin said. "We wholeheartedly endorse it."

Mayor Patsy Sloan outlined the benefits to Bowling Green and the region. "This is going to have a tremendous positive impact on local business and industries, both existing ones and those that we hope to attract," she said.

"It'll be of great economic significance in terms of the economic development in this part of our state," she said.

Western already trains a large number of people in industries and a new institute will provide a boost to this assistance, said chamber President Gary Dillard.

"New industry will see what we can provide from this university to help them," Dillard said. "Existing industry and agriculture will benefit from this program as well. It has to be dynamic."

"I think the impact will be extraordinary on the area," said Bowling Green attorney Steve Catron, who represents the city-county Planning Commission and is active in industrial development.

"It provides the basis for years and years of expansion and it provides tremendous legacy for the future in terms of economic development," he said.

The university also plans to reap benefits from the institute. It will allow faculty to bring information from the business

world into the classroom, Meredith said.

"For our students, it's a great practical hands-on opportunity to learn what's happening in their related fields," Iracane said.

Part- and full-time employees will staff the institute, Meredith said. Faculty members who work in the center will probably change with the change of projects and needs, he said.

"Part of what we would expect to do with the operational support would be to buy release time for faculty members, which is what you do with (research) grants and all that now," Meredith said.

Failed shopping center to become WKU institute

Associated Press

BOWLING GREEN — An economic venture that did not prosper will soon become the headquarters for a Western Kentucky University Institute for Economic Development.

The university, with help from two of its foundations, has bought a nearly vacant Bowling Green shopping center.

Provident Life Insurance of Chattanooga was paid \$700,000 by Western's Ogden College Foundation and the College Heights Foundation for the Bowling Green Center on Nashville Road.

The College Heights Foundation will hold title to the property for seven years. It will be leased to the university through a lease-purchase agreement, said Paul Cook, WKU's executive vice president for administrative affairs. The foundation will charge the university interest at "a current market rate," Cook said, but he did not recall the exact rate.

Businessmen Drew Maddox and Ron Pearson of Gallatin, Tenn., are also helping Western

The institute would provide 'a link between the think tank and the marketplace.'

— Gov. Wallace Wilkinson

with the purchase.

Bowling Green real-estate agent Sonny Barr said the two forgave a \$1.25 million second mortgage they held on the building as a contribution to the university.

The property had been appraised at \$2 million, Cook said.

Barr said the shopping center's previous tenants included Wal-Mart and Kroger, but new shopping centers, including the Greenwood Mall, were developed on Scottsville Road. The new centers lured business away from Nashville Road.

A bingo operation and some other businesses have leased the center since then, Barr said, but few survived for long.

Western now must raise money to renovate the 100,000-square-

foot building, and the university has asked Gov. Wallace Wilkinson for \$5 million for that work.

"The governor has promised it will be in his executive budget, and we are confident the value of the institute will warrant our receiving that money for the renovation," WKU President Thomas Meredith said.

When Wilkinson visited Bowling Green a year ago to announce the creation of the institute and his backing for it, he said it would provide "a link between the think tank and the marketplace."

Institute director Stephen House, Meredith's executive assistant, has a tentative plan on how the shopping center space might be divided.

They include: overnight guest rooms, similar to the 50 rooms now available in Schneider Hall; seminar rooms and classrooms; an auditorium; a cafeteria-dining room; and office space for the institute and its programs.

The shopping center covers 12 acres adjacent to a 30-acre parcel the university already owns and has a 5-acre paved parking lot.

House said he thought the only two tenants now in the shopping center are an aquarium store and a church organization. Western does not have any immediate plans to ask those tenants to leave, he said.

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Civic center, WKU institute win support of Wilkinson

By TIM ROBERTS
Staff Writer

5-11-89

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — An economic development institute at Western Kentucky University and a convention center in Bowling Green received Gov. Wallace Wilkinson's offer of financing yesterday.

Wilkinson said in separate announcements that he'll include money in his 1990 budget for both projects, although he wasn't certain just how much.

Wilkinson said the WKU institute may cost \$5 million to \$10 million. He said he will consider setting aside \$3 million to \$4 million for the civic center, which is estimated to cost up to \$10 million.

WKU President Thomas C. Meredith, Wilkinson and the board of regents unveiled the plans for the development institute, which Meredith said is intended to coordinate the university's assistance to business and industry throughout the region.

There were few details available about just how the institute will function, but Meredith said it will eventually have its own support and research staff, and Wilkinson said it will have its own building and equipment.

Calling the university "an idea factory," Wilkinson said the institute will

provide "a link between the think tank and the marketplace."

A campus committee soon will begin developing plans for operation of the institute, Meredith said.

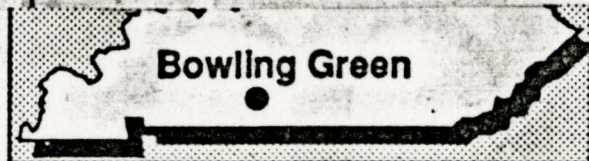
Regent Chairman Joe Iracane of Owensboro said, "We're glad to be a part of the team that's escalating economic development in Western Kentucky."

The convention center on Scottsville Road will be linked to a hotel developed by Hilton Hotels Corp. also costing about \$10 million. Hilton will also manage the convention center for the city-county Tourism & Economic Development Council Inc.

The city and county will have to pay the remainder of the \$10 million needed for the Convention Center through bond issues or out of money from the tourism council, which receives funding from a 3 percent room tax, Bowling Green Mayor Patsy Sloan said.

The final plans have not been drawn for either the convention center or the hotel. The convention center is expected to have 50,000 to 60,000 square feet. The hotel will be eight stories tall with a glass exterior and will have about 200 rooms

See PROJECTS
Back page, col. 4, this section



Projects at WKU, hotel get backing of governor

Continued from Page One

and a ballroom that will seat 1,000.

Terrence L. O'Brien, vice president of Hilton's central region, said the hotel probably will be completed in about two years. He said a golf course the city is building next door at a cost of \$3.5 million and the possibility of commuter air service at the nearby airport were factors in Hilton's decision to come to Bowling Green.

Stephen Catron, a Bowling Green attorney who serves on a citizen advisory board for the Bowling Green-



An architectural rendering of the hotel and convention center.

Warren County airport, said the airport has been talking with two commuter airlines about scheduled service. He said he thought one of them could have service in Bowling Green by the end of the year.

Wilkinson praised Bowling Green, calling it "a city on the move" and "one of the bright stars in Kentucky success stories."

In pledging state assistance to the

project, Wilkinson said, "I want you to be able to say, 'This governor was for us.'"

Warren County Judge-Executive Basil Griffin agreed, saying, "We don't have a wish list, we have a governor's list."

Griffin and Sloan also announced they would name the entrance road to the hotel and convention center "Wilkinson Trace."

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Editorial

Economic center worth funding

It's easy to understand the enthusiasm generated by Gov. Wallace Wilkinson's announcement that an Institute for Economic Development will be located at Western Kentucky University.

The institute should enhance Bowling Green's reputation as a city where businesses can prosper and has the potential for being a major economic development tool.

The institute will coordinate efforts by WKU to provide assistance to existing or beginning businesses.

Western always has been a valuable resource for our community, and both the university and businesses have benefited from an exchange of knowledge and ideas.

The institute, however, will be a more visible means of selling Western's resources to companies studying Bowling Green as a possible location for plants.

Once the institute is established, businessmen will know exactly where to call to get advice and help from talented university personnel. And they'll know that the institute is set up specifically to benefit their companies.

The only stumbling block at the moment is money. It will be up to the 1990 General Assembly to see to it that the institute is funded.

Wilkinson says money for the institute will be included in the budget he submits to the legislature.

We trust the legislators will see the wisdom in providing money for a project that promises to be so beneficial to a wide area of the state.

D.V. 5-14-89

Regents to discuss location for new center

A Daily News report

A site for Western Kentucky University's Institute for Economic Development is expected to be finalized and made public later this week.

Western President Thomas Meredith said today that the board of regents would vote at its meeting Thursday on the proposed site, which is not being disclosed pending the vote.

"I need to wait and present it to the board and let them make a final decision on it," Meredith said. Board members probably will discuss the property acquisition in closed session before

voting, he said.

Western executive officers began working to find a location for the institute in the fall, Meredith said. They have primarily studied only one existing site — the one that will be recommended to the board, he said.

Administrators also looked into the possibility of building a facility, Meredith said, but chose the existing site instead. He declined to give reasons for the choice and to comment on financing, but did say the building would be purchased, not leased.

Gov. Wallace Wilkinson has an-

nounced his support for the institute, which will offer assistance and counseling to businesses through university resources and faculty. Funding for it will be recommended to the 1990 General Assembly.

Western administrators will present their recommendation to the Council on Higher Education at its meeting Friday for approval.

Council spokesman Sherron Jackson declined to give details of the property acquisition because of a policy that requires preliminary information be released by the university.

Dr. Steve House, executive assistant to Meredith, has gathered information for the institute by visiting other universities. He said two or three people have already called Western interested in receiving assistance from the institute.

The announcement of the institute was made in May, and Meredith has said he hopes it will be running full-force by July 1990.

The university is in the preliminary stages of seeking funding for operational costs and projects through state, federal and private foundation grants, House said.

Council OKs Western land purchase

D.N. 7-9-87
The Council on Higher Education brought Western Kentucky University one step closer Friday to acquiring property for its Institute for Economic Development.

The Council approved a resolution authorizing the College Heights Foundation to purchase a 100,000 square foot building on a 12-acre site approximately two miles from campus.

The location is not being revealed pending the site acquisition. Western will lease the build-

ing from the foundation, President Thomas Meredith has said.

The Council did not approve a specific site or cost, Meredith said.

Meredith said the resolution approved by the Council listed only general information "so that it wouldn't mess up our negotiations."

"The pieces just aren't in the bucket yet," he said.

Meredith said three sites are under consideration — Kings Plaza on Scottsville Road and the

old Bowling Green Mall and Bowling Green Center, both on Nashville Road.

He would not confirm reports that the old Bowling Green Mall will be the site for the institute, which will provide assistance and counseling to businesses through university resources and faculty.

Negotiations could be complete this week or continue until August, Meredith said.

Western's board of regents approved a resolution similar to the Council's.

Western purchase of property gets informal approval in Frankfort

8-30-59

By LISA JACKSON
Daily News Staff Writer

Western Kentucky University received informal approval from a legislative committee Monday to purchase a Nashville Road shopping center to house its Institute for Economic Development.

President Thomas Meredith, however, said a land deal is still being negotiated and that speculation on a specific site is premature.

Dr. Paul Cook, executive vice president for administrative affairs, made a presentation to the seven-member Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee in Lexington on Monday to tell about the university's consideration in obtaining the Bowling Green Center.

Although two Legislative Research Commission staff members who attended the meeting said the site was never referred to by name, it was described as a 12-acre site approximately two miles from campus with eight acres of paved parking.

The shopping center is valued at \$2 million, but the university could obtain it for less than \$800,000, Cook told committee members.

State Rep. Marshall Long (D-Shelbyville), who chairs the committee, said a vote by com-

mittee members was not taken at the Monday meeting on the project and that it was merely an information item presented to them.

"The committee didn't have any problems with it at all," Long said.

A vote will not be required from the committee unless state funds become involved or unless the university decides to purchase the site itself.

The Board of Regents approved a resolution in July authorizing the College Heights Foundation to buy the property for the institute so the university can lease the site from it.

Cook told the committee about a potential lease-purchase agreement with the foundation that would allow the university to buy the property in four to seven years.

Such an agreement would have to be approved by the committee.

Gov. Wallace Wilkinson has also said he will seek funding from the General Assembly for the institute, which will provide university resources and faculty members to businesses needing assistance.

Other sites under consideration for the institute are the old Bowling Green Mall on Nashville Road and King Plaza on Scottsville Road.

Office works to make institute reality

By LISA JACKSON

Daily News Staff Writer 9-8-87

Western Kentucky University's Institute for Economic Development received space this week on campus for a planning office to make the institute a reality by the summer of 1990.

The office, in Room 212 of Van Meter Hall, is manned by Dr. Steve House, executive assistant to the president, and his secretary, Patricia Smith.

House spent his first full day in the office Thursday as he and Mrs. Smith tugged on furniture and unloaded boxes in attempts to get the office set up.

"We have a long way to go, but we've started," House said.

The office, with its freshly painted walls and uncarpeted floors, was established so that full attention can be given to development of the institute, which will provide university resources to assist and advise businesses and industries.

Western President Thomas Meredith asked House to spearhead the planning and man the office through the coming year.

House spent Tuesday in Frankfort and was assured that the institute would receive a \$50,000 Local Government Services Department Grant to assist with planning and implementation.

Part of his work Thursday consisted of drafting letters for Meredith for the appointment of a 15-member faculty and staff advisory committee to create policy and procedure under which the institute will operate.

The committee, which will seek guidance from

business and government leaders, probably will be established next week, House said.

He and several faculty members will travel within the coming months to seek suggestions from business owners and seek financial support from private companies in the 27-county region, House said.

"I think it's important that we plan carefully and do our homework before we just start operating," House said. "We need to solicit ideas and suggestions from those whom we will serve."

The committee won't be tied down by precedent or tradition in its development of the institute, but will be able to be innovative, House said. "It's an opportunity to be creative and start something from ground zero from this point," he said.

About \$150,000 will be needed during the coming year for planning, House said. Western will provide \$50,000, the state grant will provide \$50,000, and additional funds will be sought from private sources and from a federal grant, he said.

Funds will be used for printing and other operational expenses and for promotional work, House said.

The telephone has already been ringing in the newly established office. House said people are asking about a Sept. 19 conference at the Brown Agricultural-Exposition Center, at which information about the institute and other Western and state services available to businesses will be given.

Foundation OKs loan for WKU institute

By PAUL RAUPP 11-24-87
Daily News Staff Writer

The College Heights Foundation has approved a \$700,000, seven-year loan to Western Kentucky University to buy a shopping center on Nashville Road that will house Western's Institute for Economic Development, according to a source who asked to not be identified.

The source told the Daily News that the foundation's 12-member board of directors approved the loan Tuesday during a special meeting.

Western will use the money to buy a 12-acre site at 2353 Nashville Road known as Bowling Green Center, which includes a 100,000 square foot shopping center that will be renovated for use as the institute, the source said.

Western President Thomas Meredith and College Heights Foundation President Dero Downing confirmed this morning that the foundation approved the loan. However, neither would comment on the terms or amount of the loan or confirm that it would be used to buy Bowling Green Center.

"Everything is not consummated yet," Meredith said.

According to Meredith, final approval of the project hinges on the signing of a purchase agreement between Western and a property owner he declined to name. That agreement should be concluded within "days or weeks," he said.

Meredith said Western will pay back to the foundation all principal and interest on the loan in installments. Preparations to repay the loan already are being factored into the university's budgets, he said.

Meredith also confirmed that the loan will be used exclusively by Western to purchase a building to house the institute and that no additional funds will be required for that purchase. State money pledged for the project will be used to renovate the building and for institute operations; and private donations for the project will be used for operations, Meredith said.

The institute, proposed by Meredith and Western Board of Regents Chairman Joe Iracane to Gov. Wallace Wilkinson more than one year ago, will provide assistance and counseling to businesses through Western resources and faculty.

Meredith said Wilkinson has included money for the institute in the executive budget he will submit to the General Assembly in January and that the funds, if approved, would be available on July 1, 1990.

Planning for the institute — spearheaded by Dr. Steve House, Meredith's executive assistant — is

proceeding rapidly and the loan from the College Heights Foundation adds significantly to the project's momentum, Meredith said.

"We're just ready to take off with this thing," he said.

A few major hurdles toward establishment of the institute had been cleared prior to the foundation board's approval of the loan.

Western's board of regents in July gave its blessing to the foundation's assistance in acquiring a site for the institute, and the state Council on Higher Education in the same month approved a resolution authorizing the foundation to buy a 12-acre that includes a 100,000 square foot building.

The College Heights Foundation was established in 1923 by then-Western President H.H. Cherry as an independent, non-profit corporation to provide financial assistance to students. The foundation has

assets of \$9 million to \$10 million, Downing said.

While he acknowledged that the foundation's primary purpose is to provide assistance to Western students through scholarships and loans, Downing said the loan to Western to acquire property for the institute is an appropriate use of foundation funds.

"It's not something we have done (in the past) as far as major construction projects," Downing said of foundation's uses. "This is an instance where the foundation is in a position to serve as a conduit ... It's not as if the foundation is in the con-

struction business."

According to the source, however, some Western faculty and administrators are upset that money given to the foundation specifically for student aid could be used for a capital improvement project.

"Sure they're upset, because they're afraid the money will be taken away from the students," the source said. "Some of them have already told me that."

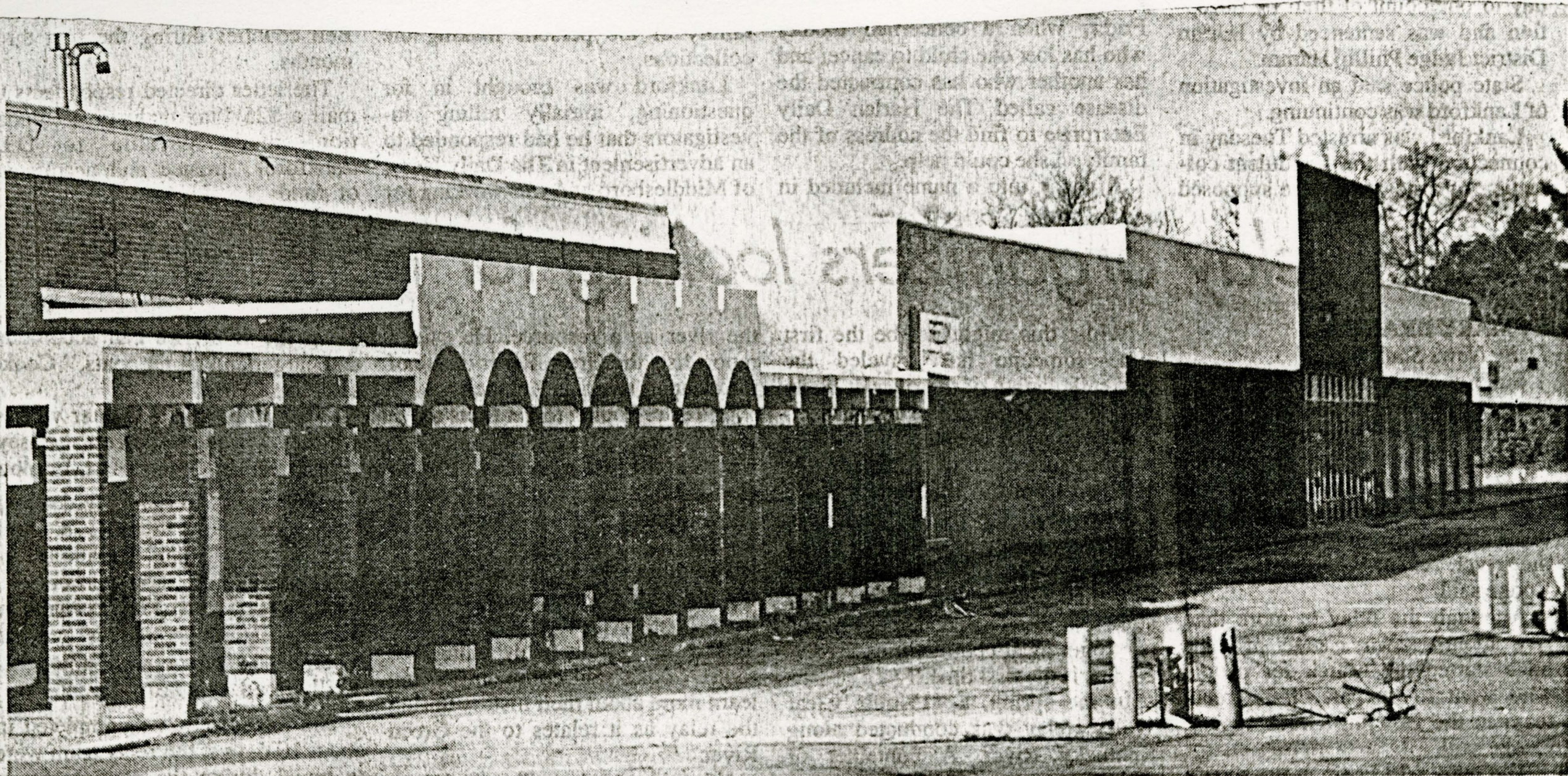
Both Meredith and Downing denied that foundation money is being diverted from students to the institute and both defended the foundation's vote to approve the

loan.

The loan money will come from funds donated to the foundation without restrictions, according to Downing.

"Under no circumstances at any time would the College Heights Foundation encroach upon the confidence some benefactor has placed in the foundation," Downing said.

If a donor specified that a donation be used specifically for student aid, "You could be absolutely assured for all time that that's exactly the way it would be," Downing said.



Staff Photo by Catherine Calovich

THE COLLEGE HEIGHTS FOUNDATION has approved a \$700,000 loan to Western Kentucky University to buy Bowling Green Center on Nashville Road, a source said today. The building, which sits on 12 acres,

will be renovated to house Western's Institute for Economic Development, which will provide assistance to businesses through university faculty and resources.

D.N 11-24-89

WKU to acquire Bowling Green shopping center for institute

By CYNTHIA CROSSLEY
Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — With the help of two of its foundations, Western Kentucky University has purchased a nearly vacant Bowling Green shopping center to use as a headquarters for the university's year-old Institute for Economic Development.

Western's Ogden College Foundation and the College Heights Foundation paid \$700,000 to Provident Life Insurance of Chattanooga this week to buy the Bowling Green Center on Nashville Road.

The College Heights Foundation will hold title to the property for seven years and lease it to the university through a lease-purchase agreement, said Paul Cook, WKU's executive vice president for administrative affairs. The foundation will charge the university interest at "a current market rate," but Cook said he didn't recall the exact rate.

Also helping Western with the purchase were two Gallatin, Tenn., businessmen, Drew Maddox and Ron Pearson. Bowling Green real-estate agent Sonny Barr said they forgave a \$1.25 million second mortgage they held on the building as a contribution to the university.

Cook said the property had been appraised at \$2 million.

One reason Western was able to buy the center is because it has been nearly vacant for several years.

About four years ago, the shopping center's tenants included Wal-Mart and Kroger, Barr said. But new shopping centers, including the Greenwood Mall, were developed on Scottsville Road, and they lured business away from Nashville Road, Barr said.

Other businesses — including a bingo operation — have leased the center since then, Barr said, but few managed to survive for long.

Western now must raise money to renovate the 100,000-square-foot building, and has asked Gov. Wallace Wilkinson for \$5 million for that work. "The governor has promised it

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Western to use shopping center for institute

Continued from Page B 1

will be in his executive budget, and we are confident the value of the institute will warrant our receiving that money for the renovation," WKU President Thomas Meredith said.

When Wilkinson visited Bowling Green a year ago to announce the creation of the institute and his backing for it, he said it would provide "a link between the think tank and the marketplace."

While Western's plans are sketchy until it finds out how much money it will receive for renovations, institute director Stephen House, Meredith's executive assistant, said he has some ideas on how the shopping center space might be divided.

They include: Overnight guest rooms, similar to the 50 rooms now available in Schneider Hall; seminar rooms and classrooms; an auditorium; a cafeteria-dining room; and office space for the institute and its programs.

The shopping center sits on 12 acres next to a 30-acre parcel the university already owns, House said. It also has a 5-acre paved parking lot — a boon in light of Western's continuing problems with inadequate parking space.

House said he believes the only two tenants now in the shopping center are an aquarium store and a church organization. Western doesn't have any immediate plans to ask those tenants to leave, he said.

Right now Western doesn't even have the money to change the sign at the shopping center, House said with a laugh.

Among those who will ultimately be using the building are teachers, nurses, bankers, sheriff's deputies and others who periodically visit the WKU campus for training programs or meetings of their professional associations, House said.

Those people, and others participating in Western's continuing-education programs, have been attending classes in a leased building on State Street and staying overnight in Schneider Hall. When Western be-

gins using the shopping center, everything will be under one roof, House said.

That will allow Western to convert the rest of Schneider Hall into much-needed student housing, House said.

Also using the building will be people participating in programs offered by the economic-development institute. House said the institute worked with several industries within Western's 27-county service area over the past year to teach skills to those industries' workers.

Overall, House and Cook said they are pleased that the institute now has a home, particularly one that will improve part of Bowling Green.

"That will be really suitable for our needs," said Cook of the shopping center.

Western buys Bowling Green Center for economic development institute

By PAUL RAUPP 1-3-90
Daily News Staff Writer

A Nashville Road shopping center was purchased Tuesday for about \$700,000 to house Western Kentucky University's Institute for Economic Development.

Western President Thomas Meredith told the Daily News the Ogden College Foundation put about \$660,000 toward that price to buy the mortgage note on the shopping center — known as Bowling Green Center — from Provident Life Insurance of Chattanooga, Tenn. The College Heights Foundation paid about \$40,000 in closing costs, Meredith said.

According to Meredith, Western has agreed to a lease-purchase arrangement for the 106,000-square-foot building, which sits on a 12-acre site at 2353 Nashville Road, and will renovate it with \$5 million in state funds.

As part of the purchase agreement, Meredith said, the College Heights Foundation will be listed as the building's owner. Western will pay back the \$660,000 plus interest to the Ogden College Foundation — a private, \$2.25 million trust fund — through the College Heights Foundation, Meredith said.

The College Heights Foundation

on Nov. 21 approved a plan to loan Western \$700,000 to acquire the building, but that plan was scrapped when Provident Insurance indicated it wanted to sell the building outright, Meredith said. Original plans called for the College Heights Foundation to be a payment conduit between Western and Provident, but the insurance company indicated it did not want to hold the loan, he said.

According to Meredith, the shopping center has been appraised at about \$2 million, and the purchase agreement included donations to Western from two out-of-town note holders on the property that make up

the \$1.3 million difference.

Gov. Wallace Wilkinson is expected to include the \$5 million in renovation money in the executive budget he will submit to the legislature later this month. If approved by the legislature, the money would be available on July 1 and renovation could begin soon thereafter, Meredith said.

The institute, proposed by Meredith and Western Board of Regents Chairman Joe Iracane more than one year ago, would provide assistance and counseling to businesses through Western resources and faculty.

Deletion of funding for BC

By PAUL RAUPP

Daily News Staff Writer

2-20-78
FRANKFORT, Ky. — A legislative committee recommended today that state funding for the Hartland convention center and Western Kentucky University's institute for economic development be deleted from a proposed \$100 million bond issue.

Reaction to the recommendation was surprisingly upbeat in Bowling Green and in Frankfort, however, as optimism reigned that the General

Assembly will include the \$7.5 million promised for the projects by Gov. Wallace Wilkinson in a final budget bill.

"While it's significant, I certainly don't think it's a major problem," Rep. Jody Richards, D-Bowling Green, said of the committee's recommendation. "We can still work it out."

Sen. Nick Kafoglis, D-Bowling Green, agreed.

"I am surprised, but I don't know how much impact that recom-

mendation will have," he said.

The Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee recommended halving Wilkinson's bond proposal to \$50 million, deleting \$4 million for the convention center and \$3.5 million for the economic development institute. The remaining \$50 million should be used to help fund the proposed expansion of Louisville's Standiford Field airport, the committee recommended.

The committee — which recommended deleting \$42.5 million in

projects recommended

state funding for public projects in Lexington, Paducah and Northern Kentucky — also recommended that all of the deleted projects be reinstated if money can be found to finance the entire \$100 million package.

While the committee's recommendations are not binding to the House and Senate Appropriations and Revenue committees, the rankings assigned to projects by the panel have been followed in the past.

Ultimately, however, the recommendation on whether to fund the projects will come from the appropriations and revenue committees, where the Bowling Green projects are believed to have fairly strong support.

"It's not good news, but it's not devastating to us ... If the Senate or the House appropriations and revenue committees had voted against us, that would be of much greater concern to me," said Frank St. Charles, chairman of the Tourism

and Economic Development Council. TEDCO has been working for more than 14 months to arrange financing for the convention center project.

St. Charles, Mayor Patsy Sloan, and representatives of Western, Warren County Fiscal Court and the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce were in Frankfort on Monday to lobby for

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BG projects

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the projects before the House appropriations committee.

It was the third trip by the Bowling Green contingent in recent weeks, and those involved have been pleased with the legislative response to the two Bowling Green projects.

"No one we've talked to is against the convention center," St. Charles said.

As for the economic development institute, Meredith said he is "extremely disappointed" at the committee's recommendation but promised to work with the full appropriations and revenue committees to secure the funding for the project.

"I'm confident that the institute will be funded before the session is

over," Meredith said. Western had requested \$5 million to renovate the Bowling Green Center on Nashville Road to house the institute, but Wilkinson included only \$3.5 million for the project in his executive budget.

Meanwhile, there is more than a month to go until the end of the session, and there appears to be legitimate reasons for Bowling Green representatives to be optimistic about state funding for the projects.

While Kafoglis and Rep. Billy Ray Smith, D-Bowling Green, are members of the respective appropriations and revenue committees, Richards — who is House Majority Caucus Chairman — also certainly will be named to the legislative con-

ference committee that traditionally irons out last-minute budget details in the waning days of the session.

"Because of the fact that we are in those positions, that gives us an advantage in trying to get these projects funded," Kafoglis said. "There are no guarantees, of course."

And according to Richards, there is little chance that the legislature will approve a multi-million-dollar bond package that would fund only the Standiford Field expansion.

"Certainly, there is no way that just the Louisville project is going to go," Richards said. "... If we don't get ours, there won't be (a bond issuance). I will not stand for other people getting some projects and us not getting ours."

Additional funding for institute pressed

By LISA JACKSON
Daily News Staff Writer

2-8-90
FRANKFORT, Ky. — Western Kentucky University administrators asked legislators Wednesday to increase funding for the Institute for Economic Development over the amount recommended by Gov. Wilkinson.

The university had requested \$5 million to renovate the Bowling Green Center on Nashville Road to house the institute, said Western President Thomas Meredith.

But Wilkinson recommended only \$3.5 million in his executive budget. "We were appearing before that committee to make our case," Meredith said.

He and Dr. Paul Cook, executive vice president for administrative affairs, talked to members of the Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee, along with Bowling Green Mayor Patsy Sloan, who reiterated the need for \$4 million in state funds to finance the proposed Hartland Convention Center.

Mrs. Sloan said \$6 million in bonds would be sold by local government to pay the remainder of the expected \$10 million cost of the center. The project has already created private investment, she said.

Both groups from Bowling Green were appearing before the committee to ensure they receive a chunk of Wilkinson's proposed \$100 million bond project.

The projects chosen by Wilkinson have strong backing in their communities, said Sen. Benny Ray Bailey, D-Hindman.

Sen. Mike Moloney, D-Lexington, predicted a "winnowing-out process" for the bond issue, but declined to identify particular projects that might have a tough time making it through the legislature.

The largest part of the bond issue — \$50 million — is proposed for airport expansion in Jefferson County.

Continued Back Page
Column 4, This Section

Institute

From
Page 1

Remaining money is being divided between Bowling Green's two projects, \$19 million for a convocation center and arena at Northern Kentucky University, \$18.5 million for a World Trade and Cultural Center in Lexington and \$5 million for downtown redevelopment in Paducah.

Meredith said it's too early to tell how much money will end up being allocated for the institute, which has received strong backing from the governor.

Meredith said he also appeared Wednesday before the Budget Review Subcommittee on Education — a subcommittee of the House's Appropriations and Revenue Committee.

He, along with other university presidents and representatives of the

Council on Higher Education, wanted to emphasize the need for full funding within the next biennium for higher education.

Ken Walker, deputy executive director of finance for CHE, said they weren't able to get an idea of how successful their quests for more funding might be from legislators at the committee Wednesday.

"We received very positive feedback in both cases," Meredith said. "Obviously, at this stage, they (legislative committees) don't reveal their hands very much."

Cook was expected to appear today before a joint Capital Construc-

tion and Bond Oversight Committee to try to get funding for two Western renovation projects, Meredith said.

About \$456,000 is needed for Page Hall renovations and about \$3.5 million for Potter Hall renovations, Meredith said. Those projects were recommended by CHE for funding by the state. The governor recommended approval of the projects, but said they should be paid for by the university, not through state bonds, Meredith said.

Rep. Jody Richards, D-Bowling Green, was on the construction committee, and spoke up for Western's needs, Meredith said.

Economic institute may be scaled back

WKU pressing to obtain additional funding from the state

By LISA JACKSON 2-11-78
Daily News Staff Writer

Western Kentucky University will scale back its renovation plans for the Institute for Economic Development if the state doesn't provide all the funds needed for the project, according to administrators.

"Some parts of it may have to be left undone for a while," Western President Thomas Meredith said.

Although some of the planned activities for the institute may have to be put on hold, it will still open and operate to some extent as planned, Meredith said.

"I'm very optimistic that our proposal will be funded," said Dr. Steve House, executive assistant to the president for economic development. But he said it's too early to predict to what extent.

Western had requested \$5 million to renovate the Bowling Green Center on Nashville Road to house the institute, but Gov. Wallace Wilkinson recommended only \$3.5 million in his execu-

tive budget.

Western administrators talked to legislators last week explaining the need for the \$5 million. House said he will continue to promote the project at a reception for legislators Thursday in Frankfort sponsored by the Kentucky Industrial Development Council, of which he is a member.

The institute would receive state funds that are part of a \$100 million bond project proposed by Wilkinson. City leaders are vying for \$4 million of the bond issue to help fund Bowling Green's Hartland Convention Center.

"It appears both Bowling Green projects ... have been well received," House said. "In participating in the hearings and learning about some of the other projects, I believe at this point we're in pretty good shape."

Although \$3.5 million isn't all that's needed, it is a significant chunk of money, House said.

"It will provide a tremendous boost," he said.

When Western administrators find out how

much money will be provided from the state, they will meet with architects and engineers to decide what type of renovations will be done, House said.

Extensive renovations are planned to the inside and outside of the facility. "We want it to be a beautiful structure," House said.

Meredith and House said private funding might be sought for renovations if the state doesn't provide \$5 million. Private funds collected this year for the institute total about \$85,000 and are used for operations, House said.

The university could go back to the legislature in two years to ask for additional funding if needed, Meredith said. "But so many people are ready for us to be in business," he said.

The institute, which provides university resources to assist and advise business and industries, is already operating out of an office in Room 212 of Van Meter Hall.

IN SPORTS

Tax plan compromise bodes

By LISA JACKSON
Daily News Staff Writer

A compromise reached Friday between the governor and legislative leaders places Bowling Green projects in a prime spot for passage in the General Assembly, according to Bowling Green legislators.

"I think it would be extraordinary if they don't pass," said Sen. Nick Kafoglis, D-Bowling Green, after speaking Saturday at a legislative forum sponsored by the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce.

As part of the compromise, House and Senate leaders agreed to support Gov. Wallace Wilkinson's \$600 million road bond issue and his \$100 million economic development

bond. The compromise included keeping the governor's budget proposals largely intact.

Those agreements give confidence to those supporting four Bowling Green projects tucked into the compromise. Wilkinson's \$100 million economic development bond includes \$4 million for a convention center in Hartland and \$3.5 million for Western Kentucky University's Institute for Economic Development.

The road bond issue would include funding for the four-laning of U.S. 68-Ky. 80 from Bowling Green to Cadiz, and the governor's budget includes \$4.9 million to construct a new building for the Kentucky Advanced Technology Center.

"Bowling Green is going to fare awfully well," said Rep. Jody Richards, D-Bowling Green. He said he believes funding for the projects will be approved by the General Assembly.

"Something could happen, but I can't foresee it right now," Richards said.

Rep. Billy Ray Smith, D-Bowling Green, said work could begin on the four-laning of U.S. 68-Ky. 80 this year if approved, and he believes the votes can be obtained to pass the bond issues and budget proposals.

Included in the \$100 million economic development bond is \$50 million for the expansion of Standiford Field airport in Jefferson County. Smith said he would be

well for BG projects

willing to help those backing the airport, which will benefit the entire state, in exchange for help in funding Bowling Green projects.

"I think the community has to be tremendously excited about the prospects for the convention center," said Steve Catron, attorney for the Tourism and Economic Development Council, which was created by the city and county to arrange convention center financing.

"You combine the convention center funding with the (U.S. 68-Ky. 80) expansion to Cadiz ... our economic viability is more enhanced than ever," Catron said.

The governor and legislators have given consistent assurance of funding for the convention center, and

the compromise adds even more assurance, Catron said.

Dr. Paul Cook, Western executive vice president for administrative affairs, said he is optimistic, especially because of the compromise, that the Institute for Economic Development will receive needed state funding.

"I think there's lots of hope there," Cook said.

Jim Holton, economic-executive director of the Russellville-Logan County Chamber of Commerce, said the four-laning of U.S. 68-Ky. 80, which would go through Russellville, would be safer for travelers and would attract industry

and business development into the area.

"I think we're closer than we have ever been before," Holton said. But the projects aren't approved yet, he said. "I think people have got to continue to call their legislators."

Warren County Judge-Executive Basil Griffin, who has been active in the effort to have a new facility built

for KATC, could not be reached for comment.

Bowling Green legislators at Saturday's forum were upbeat about a turnaround in the General Assembly's session.

"These last couple of days have, in my view, been historic in Kentucky," Richards told the standing-room-only crowd gathered in the

fiscal court room of the Warren County Courthouse.

Smith said that a month ago, legislators were perplexed and confused, but that the governor has done an about-face. "Great strides have been made," he said.

The compromise "is very good for Bowling Green," Kafoglis said. "I certainly hope it holds together."

Joint economic effort discussed

A Daily News report 4-12-78

Regional representatives gathered at Western Kentucky University today to learn how to pool resources and ideas to boost economic development in Southcentral Kentucky.

"We've been working independently," said Dr. Steve House, head of Western's Institute for Economic Development. The meeting was to show community representatives how to work together in a regional concept, he said.

"We have a regional mission. Our interest is beyond Bowling Green and Warren County," he said.

Representatives from Bowling Green, Franklin, Glasgow, Morgantown, Russellville and Scottsville were invited to the meeting, which was led by President Thomas Meredith and Bernard Williams, commissioner of the Department of Existing Business and Industry in the state Economic Development Cabinet.

Members of the Barren River Area Development District, the Innovation Center, Southern Kentucky Industrial Development Association and the Kentucky Advanced Technology Center were also expected to attend.

Cities in the region generally are not competing with each other for businesses, but with Tennessee, Ohio and Illinois, House said.

WKU appoints members to board

Western Kentucky University has appointed seven people to the advisory board of the university's newly-created Institute for Economic Development.

The new appointees are David Adkisson, Owensboro's mayor; Steve Catron, a Bowling Green attorney; Clay Davis, president of Citizen's National Bank in Somerset; Howard Gray, president of Gray Construction in Lexington; Fred Mudge, president of Logan Aluminum in Russellville; John Stewart, vice president of the Tennessee Valley Authority; and Cal Turner Jr., president of Dollar General Corporation.

The Institute for Economic Development includes Western's Center for Industry and Technology, Center for Local Government, Social Research Laboratory, Small Business Development Center, Small Business Institute and Continuing Education Center. *DN 7-13-80*

Leadership training program provided in Allen, Scottsville

9-6-70
By GENE CANTRELL Jr.
Daily News City Editor

Kentucky led the southeastern United States in economic development during the first quarter of 1990, in part because of rural economic development, Gov. Wallace Wilkinson told a Western Kentucky University audience today.

"And, during the last 32 months, 75 percent of the 50,000 new jobs created in Kentucky have been in rural counties," he said.

Wilkinson was in Bowling Green for the announcement of a partnership between the Tennessee Valley Authority and Western Kentucky University's Economic Development Institute which will provide a leadership training program for Scottsville and Allen County.

The program will help continue rural development in Kentucky, the governor said.

The program represents the first client for the economic development project at Western.

The program, funded by a \$10,000 grant from TVA, is similar to the Leadership Bowling Green program, and will be directed by Dr. Randall Capps, head of the university's department of communication

and broadcasting.

Wilkinson said the training of leaders in rural areas will further advance the prospect of economic development in areas that have missed out on some of the state recent successes.

"Allen County and Scottsville haven't gotten their fair share," he said.

The TVA program, the first in Kentucky, is expected to be the forerunner of similar projects in the region, to be administered by Western, according to Stephen House, executive assistant to Meredith and director of the institute.

South-Link 2000 Leadership Program — the official name of TVA's project — has been developed because of the need for improved local leadership throughout the south, John Harenza, senior economic development manager for TVA, said.

"It is our view that the success of rural communities throughout the south, and indeed throughout the nation, will depend largely on the ability to create effective partner-



GOV. WALLACE WILKINSON
Touts rural development

ships among government, educational institutions, and business which can help citizens now in leadership positions, as well as emerging leaders, to further develop the knowledge and skills which will help them to lead their communities in a future characterized by rapid and profound change," Harenza said.

The program at Western will help train rural leaders in resource development, management and communication skills, among other things, he said.

Program to target economic goals

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Officials with Western Kentucky University's Economic Development Institute and the Tennessee Valley Authority yesterday announced the creation of a pilot program in Scottsville and Allen County to teach civic leaders how to attract economic development.

The \$10,000, six-month program, was funded by the TVA. It will train 25 people to determine what their community's economic goals are, what strengths and weaknesses their community has in reaching those goals, and what strategies their community needs to attract the business and industry it wants.

After the program is completed in Scottsville, other communities may apply to participate.

C.S. 9-7-70

18

Women's business conference set

^{DN}
⁹⁻¹⁷⁻⁹⁰
The Small Business Development Center, part of Western Kentucky University's Institute for Economic Development, will host the South Region Women in Business Conference from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Thursday

at Downing University Center. For more information contact Sue Neagle or Dr. Henrietta Davis.

A Profitable Town-Gown Relationship

"I meet with industrial prospects quite frequently," says Thomas Meredith, president of Western Kentucky University, "and when I do I sell them on the educational and cultural benefits of living in, and doing business in, a college community." Meredith, who also serves on the board of directors for the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce, is bullish about the university's economic role in the city. "We're more than an educational institution," he says. "We have a payroll of about \$50 million. I look on Western as being the largest corporation in the area."

Clearly, 15,000 students and 600 educators have an economic impact. The average student spends more than \$500 each month with Warren County businesses, and the university attracts nearly 300,000 visitors to Bowling Green each year. Furthermore, student organizations raise more than \$180,000 each year for local charities and contribute some 55,000 volunteer hours to

the community.

That influence is destined to increase as Western itself (which increased its enrollment some 31 percent during the past four years) continues to grow. "During the next two years, the university will see its first construction of major facilities in nearly 20 years," Meredith says. Three new buildings — a health and activities center and two new residence halls — are slated for construction and major renovation is planned for the college of education building. The total project construction expenditure is in the neighborhood of \$38 million.

Add to that the presence of the university's year-old Institute for Economic Development, an agency within the university designed to serve as a link between the campus and private business, and you have an even broader agenda for city-campus economic cooperation. "We're here to provide services which may be helpful to business," says Stephen House, director of the institute.

"Lots has already happened during just one year," he says. "We acquired a shopping center area near campus that will be renovated during the next 24 months to house the institute. We've already contracted to train more than 8,000 employees in various companies throughout southeastern Kentucky." People in businesses of all types have applied to the institute for assistance. "One of our clients was a farmer," says House, "another is a hardware store, another a bank, and another is a computer store. We work with companies that employ two or three people and with Logan Aluminum which has more than 1,000 employees."

All told, the growth of Western Kentucky and its interest in the economic health of southeastern Kentucky portend good things for the Bowling Green business community. "This growth, present and future, creates a very special town-gown relationship between the university and the city," says Meredith. "I'm proud of that."



DAVID MUDD

The average Western student spends more than \$500 each month with Warren County businesses.

Institute for Economic Development Growing

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — With a boost from a \$600,000 grant, the Institute for Economic Development at Western Kentucky University is on its way to assuming a leadership role in the economic development efforts in Kentucky.

The grant will help cover costs of materials, teaching stipends, travel money and new projects for the Institute, which serves as a link between private business, industry and government, and was created to assist and to promote the economic development of the Commonwealth.

The grant makes the In-

stitute's budget "more attractive," said Director Stephen House.

Projects include a marketing study for the potential of increased tourism in Western Kentucky.

The grant, from the U.S. Department of Commerce, means more than money; it initiates the Institute into an elite network of 32 colleges and universities which have been recognized by the federal government as leaders in economic research and information, House said.

Representatives of the network meet periodically to

"share ideas, pool our resources and work as partners," House said.

The grant, which is the third largest in the University's history, will be disbursed over a seven-year period: \$100,000 annually for five years and \$50,000 each for the sixth and seventh years.

But even before receiving the grant, the Institute has been making strides in improving economic opportunities, especially for rural areas of the state.

In September 1990, Kentucky Gov. Wallace Wilkinson gave his support to a partnership between the Institute and the Tennessee Valley Authority called South-Link 2000. The partnership provides economic development leadership programs in rural areas and began with training for community leaders in Allen County and Scottsville.

"Rural economic development is of vital importance to this state," Wilkinson said at a press conference to announce the partnership. "Many counties have been neglected both socially and culturally because of economic deprivation. I compliment Western Kentucky University's Economic Development Institute. It is a great idea."

Wilkinson announced the establishment of the Institute in May 1989, during a visit to the Western campus. Since then, the University has acquired the Bowling Green Center shopping complex on Nashville Road and received \$3.5 million from the

Kentucky General Assembly for renovations. Those renovations are expected to be complete within two years.

The Institute includes six units: the Center for Industry and Technology, the Center for Local Government, the Social Research Laboratory, the Small Business Development Center, the Small Business Institute and the Continuing Education Center.

Other activities provided by units within the Institute include training sessions, consulting services and a variety of other programs designed to assist individuals and agencies to develop, expand and improve their organizations.

The Institute serves as a central office which individuals and agencies external to the University can call to have access to all of Western's service components.

WKU appoints House director of economic development institute

3-18-91
A Daily News report

Dr. Stephen D. House, executive assistant to the president of Western Kentucky University, has been named executive director of the Institute for Economic Development and Public Service.

House, of Bowling Green, was appointed by Western President Dr. Thomas C. Meredith.

As the executive director, House will assume leadership for seven units that provide services to private



STEPHEN D. HOUSE

business, industry, local governments and public agencies. House has previously served Western as the director of admissions, university registrar.

President Meredith described House as "an energetic and innovative individual capable of placing the Institute in a leadership position among the economic development organizations in the state and region."

Meredith added that he is excited about the potential for the institute and the services it can provide to the Kentucky, particularly in Western's primary service area, Southcentral Kentucky.

Meredith also described the institute as an example of how higher education can be directly involved with local communities

in making better utilization of resources and improving the quality of life for their citizens.

House called the appointment an important one.

"I am excited about this opportunity and look forward to the challenge of leading Western in this important area," House said.

During the 1990 session of the General Assembly, Western received approval for \$3.5 million in funding for the renovation of Bowling Green Center, a former shopping center, to be used as a conference facility and headquarters for the Institute. Western has also received a \$600,000 federal grant from the Economic Development Administration to provide operational funds for the institute.

Economic development institute plans continuing to be nurtured at WKU

6-24-91
By STAN REAGAN

Daily News Business Editor

Western Kentucky University's Institute for Economic Development may not be housed under one roof for another two years, but that hasn't stopped the development of programs to be offered, according to Executive Director Stephen D. House.

The institute will be in the vacant Bowling Green Center on Nashville Road, about two miles from campus. It will house several services aimed specifically to promote business development and continuing education in existing businesses, he said.

"We are working on getting the asbestos removed from the building," House said. "Once that portion is complete, we will be working with the architects to design uses for interior space and to redesign the building's facade."

The building's roof will have to be replaced, too, he said.

The institute will serve as a conference center with an auditorium, eight to 10 conference rooms and university offices.

Western hosts meetings of special groups at various times throughout the year and works with these groups on an ongoing basis.

Groups such as the Kentucky Sheriff's Association, Kentucky Bank Management Institute and General Electric now use Western for meetings and are typical of the potential users of the proposed institute.

"They recognize the need for continuing education," House said.

The institute could have teleconference facilities, which would reduce the amount of required travel for businesses through the televised sessions, he said.

The 1990 General Assembly allocated \$3.5 million to Western for the institute's development expenses. Since that time, Western has been getting ready by building up programs to operate out of the institute.

The newest program, The Center for Leadership Development, will be one of seven programs offered, House said.

A pilot program was developed

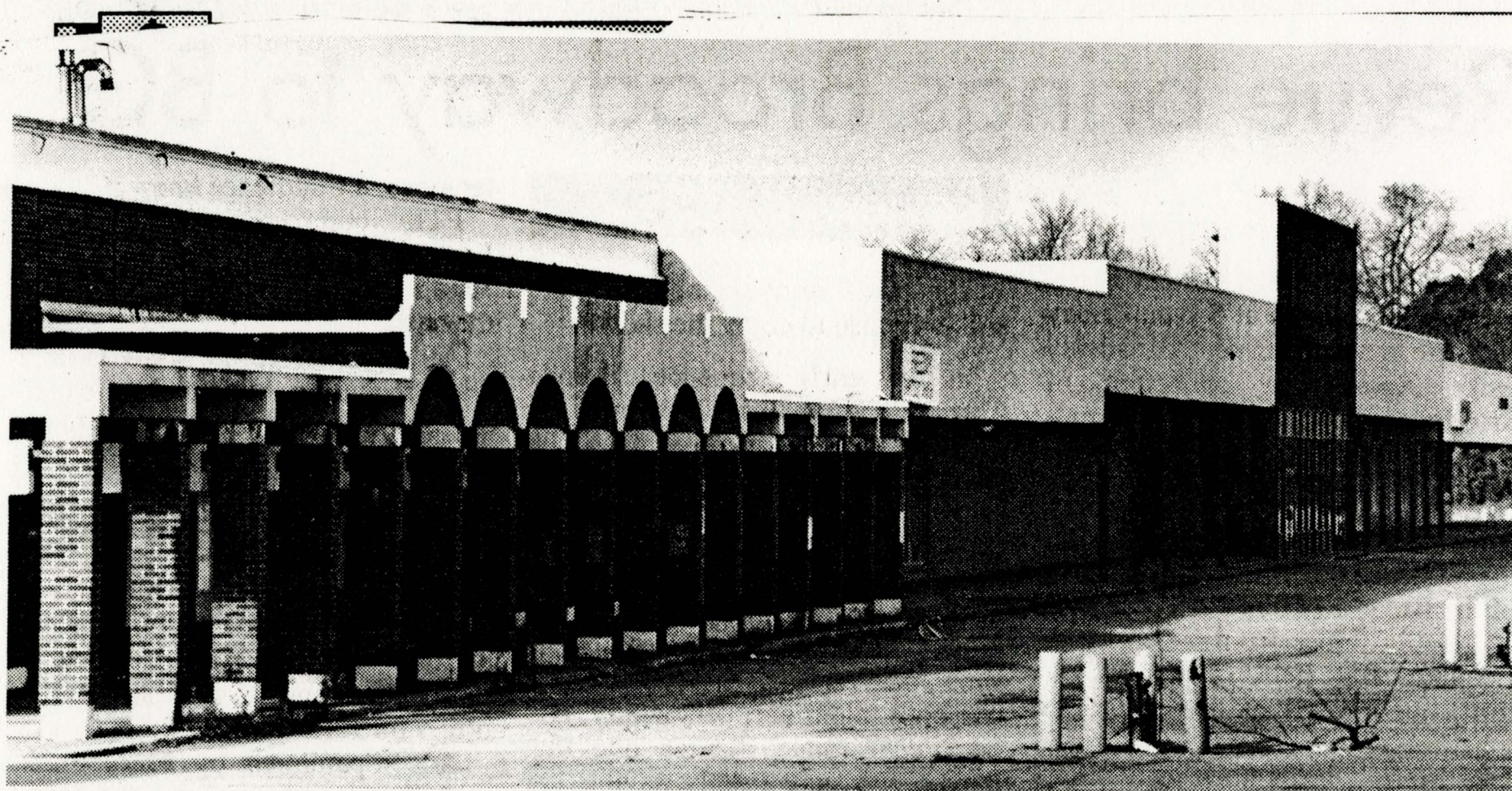
under the center's auspices for Allen County and Scottsville with the Tennessee Valley Authority and SouthLink 2000, an economic development group operating in the Southeast.

"We tried to involve a diverse group and entice them to become active in community affairs," House said. The group is similar to Leadership Bowling Green but is designed for rural communities.

The Allen County group was the driving force in getting the state to consider a proposed four-lane highway between Bowling Green and Scottsville. That plan could be included in the state's new six-year road plan due out later this summer.

Another group is being organized in Ohio County and similar interest has been expressed in Monroe County, House said.

Other parts of the institute include The Center for Industry and Technology, Center for Local Government, Social Research Laboratory, The Small Business Development Center, The Small Business Institute and The Continuing



File photo

BOWLING GREEN CENTER continues to set idle, but renovation and remodeling of the former shopping center will begin soon, according to Dr. Stephen D. House, executive director of Western Kentucky

University's Institute for Economic Development. Western has been allocated \$3.5 million in state funds to develop the center for business.

Education Center.

The industry center will provide on-site training programs, advice and support services for business while the local government center will help with planning and zoning matters.

The social laboratory will serve as an information and statistics bureau for marketing and other

demographic-dependent studies.

The Small Business Development Center is geared towards helping new businesses get started and the Small Business Institute helps small businesses that are growing.

The Continuing Education Center offers a number of programs, including non-credit courses, seminars, workshops, conferences and

other activities.

House said the Institute for Economic Development should be a driving force for the economies of counties of Southcentral Kentucky.

"I'm more convinced of tremendous appeal these programs have," he said. "Western stands to benefit because it is out there with interests in the region."

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WKU institute plans business luncheons

A Daily New report

A series of luncheons for business leaders is being sponsored by Western Kentucky University's Institute for Economic Development and Public Service.

"The Business Luncheon Series" is designed to present current topics of interest to the busy professional in an informal atmosphere, according to Steve House, director of the institute.

The first topic of the series is *Working with the Media* and will be from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. at Western's Agricultural Exposition Center.

Guest speakers for the session will be Barb Deeb, a producer, reporter and co-anchor for Western's public broadcasting service and Jim Highland a Western journalism professor.

There is a \$20 registration fee per program, which includes costs of the lunch and lecture. Advance registration and payment necessary for planning use of limited space, House said. DN 8-26-71

Book will help start or improve business

A Daily News report

A new book developed by Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce and Western Kentucky University's Institute for Economic Development is available for free to people considering opening a business or seeking to improve an existing business, according to institute director Dr. Stephen House.

"Starting Your Own Business in Bowling Green and Warren County" provides people with information about the business climate of the county and tells them how to set goals, how to find financing, where to get licenses and how to meet other governmental requirements, House said.

The book was printed using \$800 from the state Economic Development Council and matching funds raised by chamber members, he said. *DN 10-9-91*

'Innovation Series' teleconference set

Western Kentucky University's Institute for Economic Development and Public Service will sponsor the second of five "Innovation Series" teleconferences Dec. 4.

The series of live teleconferences is designed to help Kentucky business managers and business assistance professionals meet economic challenges. It is directed at small and mid-size businesses, and viewers will be able to communicate with the panelists using keypads, computers, telephones and satellite communications.

The December conference will be "Positioning Your Firm as a Market Leader," and a panel of Kentucky business leaders will discuss determining strengths and weaknesses of the competition, evaluating new opportunities and markets, gaining technological advantages and tapping into valuable sources of information and assistance.

The broadcast, which originates from KET studios and is produced by the Kentucky Office of Business and Technology, the Kentucky Science and Technology Council Inc. and Kentucky Educational Television, will be 7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. and will be in Western's academic complex, Room 240. There is no charge to attend.

After the teleconference, Western marketing professor Douglas L. Fugate will speak in Grise Hall, Room 245, about positioning strategies for Kentucky businesses.

D N 11-7-91

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WKU teleconference

The Western Kentucky University Institute for Economic Development will sponsor the program "Building Customer Confidence" from 7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. Wednesday in Room 240 of the Academic Complex.

The program will be a teleconference including panelists at the Kentucky Educational Television Network studios in Lexington.

Discussion will center on customers' needs and perceptions that impact purchases.

There is no charge for the program. Call the Office of Continuing Education to register.

ON 6-1-82

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Business lecture will be on protocol

Treva Mitchell, director of training and business development for First Federal Saving and Loan Association, will lecture on "The Art of Business Protocol" at noon Aug. 25.

The lecture is part of the Business Luncheon Series, which is sponsored by The In-

stitute for Economic Development and Public Service at Western Kentucky University.

D. N. 8-3-92

Western's economic development center intensifying business help

By EVANS DONNELL

The Daily News

Staff members at Western Kentucky University's Institute for Economic Development are excited about steps taken this year by the General Assembly to improve conditions for existing and new businesses.

"I have to give the General Assembly and the governor nothing but high marks," said Stephen House, the institute's executive director.

Laws enacted this year that offer a variety of tax breaks to businesses expanding or locating in Kentucky will help the state attract and keep businesses. The creation of a 12-member board to oversee the Cabinet for Economic Development also will aid those efforts, according to House.

"You'll have far more involvement in all areas of the state. It'll involve a larger number of people in the private sector and provide a greater continuity for long-range economic development planning," House said.

The institute's staff is also excited about plans to move into a new home next year at the old Bowling Green Center on Nashville Road.

The renovation of the former shopping mall is expected to be completed in fall 1993 at a cost of \$3.5 million, which the General Assembly provided from a direct appropriation of economic development bond funds.

"Once the program comes together in one place, we'll have higher visibility to the public and be able to offer even more," House

said.

The institute, which was started in 1989, is now spread out in different buildings on the Western campus. For example, central staff is located in Van Meter Hall while the institute's small business center and social research lab are in Grise Hall.

Their continuing education program is in the former location of the president's home, while their center for industry and technology is located at the school's science and technology building.

"We're doing a lot now, but we're still not 100 percent because the new facility is still being planned," House said.

The final design phase should be finished in September, and renovation of both the exterior and interior of the Bowling Green Center should begin shortly thereafter, according to House.

The facility should be ready to open around October 1993.

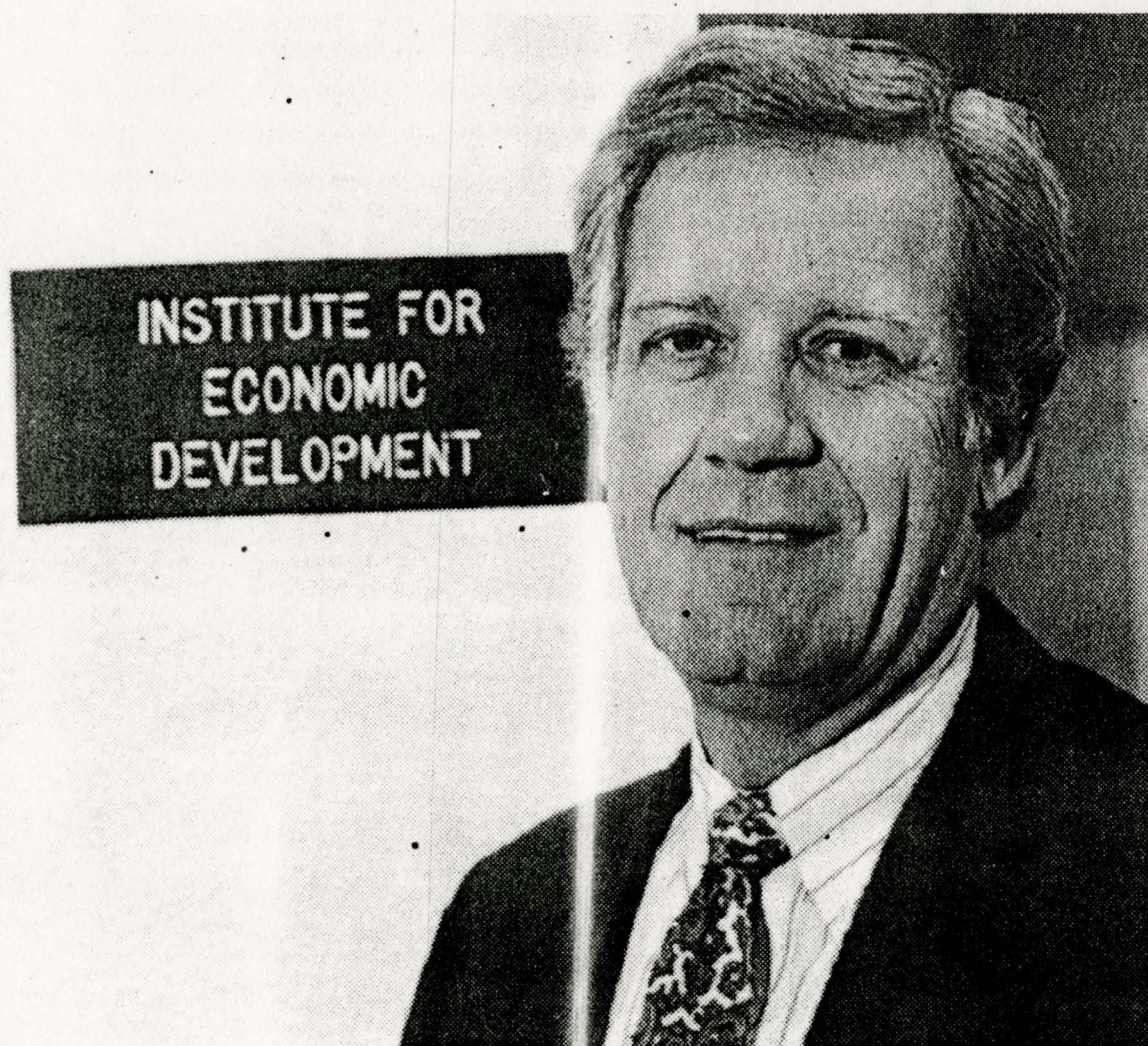
The center's primary objective is to use Western's resources to aid existing businesses in Southcentral Kentucky, House said, but the center is also glad to help regional leaders when they are working to attract new business.

"When people request assistance, we're glad to find the expertise here on campus that will provide what they need," House said.

While that assistance often comes in such forms as statistical analysis, the institute should not be thought of as just a think tank. "In fact, we're one of the leaders in the state in industrial training," House said.

The institute's center for industry and technology trained 11,000 Kentucky workers in 1991 alone, according to House.

The institute has developed tourism studies for such communities as Cadiz and Cave City and has aided the development of leadership groups in such counties as Allen, Ohio and Casey counties.



Staff Photo by Joe Imel

STEPHEN HOUSE heads Western's Institute for Economic Development, which offers boost to businesses.

Edmonson News 8/13/92 p.1

Commission Names WKU Institute To Work On Tourism For County

Edmonson County's Tourism Commission has contracted with Western Kentucky University's Institute for Economic Development and Public Service to promote tourism here as well as a state park.

Debby Spenser, 32, of Bowling Green, has been named project coordinator for the 10 month contract.

She said this week, as she started surveying the county, that the effort will be in two phases.

The first part of her work will be to concentrate on a state park and help coordinate the effort

to secure one.

The second phase will be to determine the potential for tourism here. For starters, she surveyed visitors at the recent Nolinfest '92 and the Bluegrass Festival at Seven Springs Park, Chalybeate.

She emphasized one mandate is to assist in coordinating the efforts of all groups working for a state park.

"I can't make it happen by myself. It will take everyone working together," she said

(continued on back page)

Tourism—

(continued from page 1)

Monday.

In addition to concentrating on Edmonson County, she sees a potential of Edmonson, Barren and Hart Counties in joint promotion of the caveland area.

She has just completed a project for Cave City.

Ms. Spenser has been associated with Western for almost two years. She has a masters degree in tourism research and

marketing from the University of Arkansas.

A native of Missouri, she moved here with her husband, Steve, a teacher in the WKU recreation department.

They have two sons, Beau, 7, and Tyler, 6.

She said she believes the county has a great tourism potential.

"Everyone I have talked to has been extremely positive," she said.

She pointed out the county will have the resources of the university and of students, who can work on this project.

She is anxious to work with anyone with ideas for tourism projects, such as festivals, and suggested they call her at 843-9711.

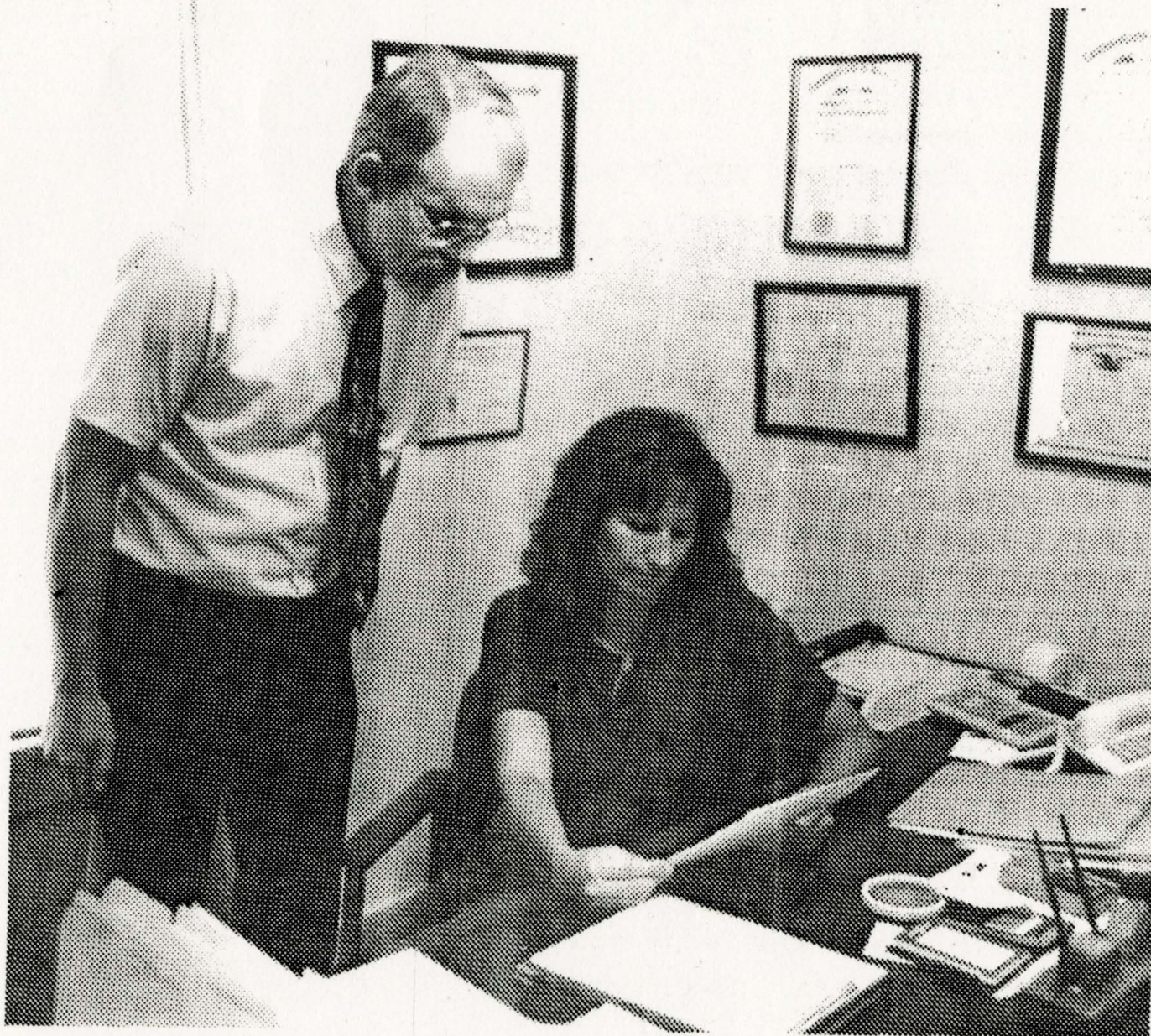
"Maybe I can help them get it promoted," she said.

king—

expected to employ up to 60 persons with a yearly payroll of \$750,000.

The 25,000 square foot facility will have 60 nursing beds and an adult day care program for eight adults.

It is expected to be completed by next spring.



Debby Spenser discusses county tourism potential with Bryan LeSieur, chairman of the Brownsville/Edmonson County Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

Center helping cure economic illiteracy

By RONALD HAWKINS

The Daily News 9-16-92

The more people know about the economy the better able they will be to make sound financial decisions, according to Bob Otto, director of the Center for Economic Education at Western Kentucky University.

While interest in economic news is at a high point, a poll for the National Council on Economic Education found economic illiteracy is rampant among adults and students. About 36 percent knew the basic purpose of profits in an economy and nearly half said they did not know the rate of inflation.

The situation in Kentucky is not any better than in the rest of the country, said Otto, who has helped develop programs related to everyday economic activities for use in the state's elementary and high schools.

"A main emphasis is personal finance," Otto said.

Western's center works with 14 school systems and conducts workshops for teachers, he said.

"If they (teachers) don't understand economics, how are they going to teach their students?" Otto asked. "Our first job is to get them economically literate."

Understanding economics has a wide range of educational applications, he said.

The most misunderstood aspect of economics is that there "has to be an incentive to develop goods and services," he said. "Most people think company profits are 50 to 60 percent when it is about 5 percent."

The second major area of misunderstanding is that everybody has to make choices because of scarcity, he said.

"Industry gets into scarcity and so do individuals," he said.

Many people also do not realize that the United States participates in a global economy, not an isolated, self-sufficient economy.

"What we had 30 years ago won't do anymore," Otto said. "Lower skill jobs have left the country. We're regarded as more



Staff Photo by Joe Imel

BOB OTTO, director of the Center for Economic Education at Western Kentucky University, says the more people know about the economy the better able they will be to make sound financial decisions.

high tech."

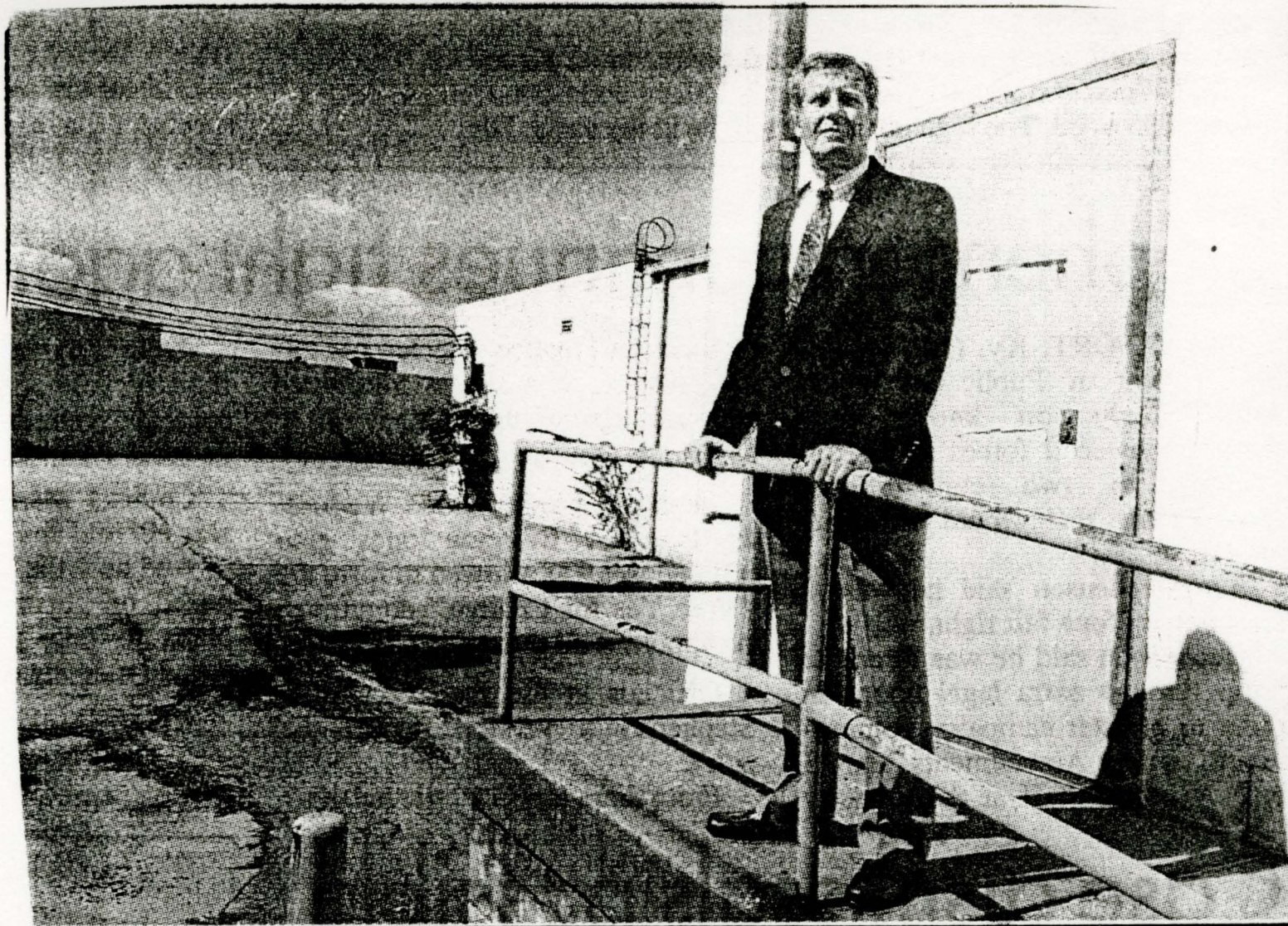
While schools can reach students, it is more difficult to reach adults, he said.

"We've had a big push to get people to read material that is economically sound," he said. "If they've had exposure in the school it will help."

Less than one-third of high

school graduates, however, have any exposure to market economy or economic education, Otto said. Students who receive an economic education will be "able to make better personal decisions and run their own finances better."

"Consumers vote with their dollar bills," he said.



Staff Color Photo by Chris Birks

STEPHEN HOUSE, director of Western Kentucky University's Institute for Economic Development, hopes the center —

which will be relocated to a former shopping center on Nashville Road — will benefit the city and the university.

WKU prepares to move institute

By STEVE CHAPLIN
The Daily News

9-24-92

Western Kentucky University is ready to begin a \$2 million renovation project that will move the school's Institute for Economic Development to Nashville Road.

Four years might pass from the time Western bought the 12 acres of land and vacant shopping center to when it is transformed sometime in 1993 to office suites, seminar rooms and an auditorium, but good things come to those who wait, according to Stephen House, director of the institute.

"It was our judgment to do quality work where we

could," he said of the \$2.2 million that will be spent to renovate 50,000 square feet, or about half, of the existing structure formally known as Bowling Green Center.

The rest of the center will be renovated later with new funds and leftover money from the \$3.5 million in state funds the university received in 1990 for the project. The additional space might be leased until that time, House said.

Western should be ready to advertise for bids

Continued

within the next 30 days for renovating the former Wal-Mart store, with contractors taking another month to prepare their offers, followed by a bid review period for the university and the project's architects, Johnson & Romanowitz of Lexington.

Scheduled to be moved from Western's campus are the Small Business Development Center, the Center for Industry and Technology, the Social Research Laboratory, the Continuing Education Center, the Kentucky Sheriff's Academy and the Kentucky Banker's Association.

The facility will also house a large foyer, four seminar rooms, an auditorium and an executive board room equipped with audio-visual equipment, House said.

Housing all those facilities under one roof "will be one of the major advantages," House said. "It works now, but it does make it difficult."

Another plus is the additional parking — some 400 spaces — that is a traditional headache for anyone visiting Western's main campus.

"That is a tremendous asset to us to have parking immediately in front of the building," he said. A food warming area for catered events will also be built and future plans call for construction of facilities for Western's overnight guests who now stay in Schneider Hall.

"I think we've made some tangible process. The renovation is going to occur, but because of limited funds we won't be able to do everything immediately," House said.

Besides the initial renovation, House said the first phase would also include a renovation of the exterior of the center.

"It's going to be a very professional-looking building," he said.

About \$300,000 has been spent during the past year for asbestos abatement at the center, leaving less than \$1 million for renovation of the final 55,000 square feet at a later date after architectural fees and a contingency fund are deducted from the total.

Economic development institute move to new site being delayed

By ANDY DENNIS
The Daily News

6-2-93

Efforts to meet state guidelines and regulations have helped delay the Institute for Economic Development's move into its Nashville Road location.

The facility is scheduled to open in February. In the meantime, a building at Nashville Road and Campbell Lane has been purchased by Western Kentucky University to temporarily house the institute.

The institute's executive director said there had been no real timetable for moving into the permanent structure, which was once a small shopping center.

The temporary site — appraised at about \$250,000 and purchased for about \$65,000 — is the former AT&T building. The permanent home is about a half a block away.

The wait was prompted by the process of meeting state guidelines, which offer more of a roadblock than they would for a private venture, according to Executive Director Stephen House.

"We had to go through a bidding process. It just takes a longer period of time

than it would, say, for a private entrepreneur building a fast-food restaurant," House said.

Asbestos was discovered at the permanent site and has been abated, House said. In doing that work, it was determined the structure needed a new roof.

House said now it's just a matter of "doing the actual construction" to remodel the facility before the institute moves in, which he said should occur in February.

Funding for the building's renovation — \$3.5 million — came from the sale of \$100 million in bonds issued during the administration of former Gov. Wallace Wilkinson. The money is distributed through the state Cabinet for Economic Development.

Money from the bond sale also was used to expand Standiford Field in Louisville and for riverfront restoration in Paducah, House said.

The property for the state-funded venture is owned by Western, which also provides some of the institute's salaries.

The institute will provide services to small businesses, such as industrial training, business leadership training, and other business-related services.

"I think this facility will have a great deal of activity," House said.

Jim Ramsey, vice president for administration and technology at Western, said the institute will help forge the already present relationship between education and economic development.

"We think that once they get into the new center, the potential for the institute will really take off. They'll have their own offices, meeting rooms and conference centers," Ramsey said.

House said the institute should become self-sufficient based on revenues from services, some of which are free to the public.

"We're very close to doing that now and, depending on how you calculate things, I'd probably say that it is now" economically self-sufficient, House said.



Staff Color Photo by Joe Imel

LEROY MATHUS of Benton, an employee for Economic Development. Asbestos abatement has been completed and led

35

WKU gets networked computer laboratory

7-11-93 D.V.
Western Kentucky University's Institute for Economic Development announced Friday that it will be awarded a networked computer lab by AT&T.

The computers, which are expected to arrive in about six weeks, will be used to establish an electronic classroom to train business leaders, the public and Western employees at the Institute for Economic Development.

The 20 NCR computer terminals will be linked to the main campus, according to Stephen House, director of the Institute for Economic Development.

Universities and colleges earlier this year were invited by AT&T to submit competitive proposals for instructional or research projects using NCR computer products.

NCR is a subsidiary company of AT&T.

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Luncheon plans ahead with 'Strategies' talk

The Business Luncheon Series of Western Kentucky University's Institute for Economic Development and Public Services will present the topic, "Strategies of Personal Finance" from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Nov. 17 at the Agriculture Exposition Center.

Peggy Keck, professor of finance and management information systems at Western, will be keynote speaker.

Discussed will be matters relating to mortgage reduction plans, health insurance deductibles, car insurance discounts, credit use and savings and retirement plans.

DN
11-9-92

Western institute will receive federal funds

DN 10-22-93
The U.S. Senate has approved \$100,000 in funds for the Western Kentucky University Institute for Economic Development. Sen. Mitch McConnell announced Thursday.

The money will be used to establish a program to help Southcentral Kentucky retirees start small businesses, McConnell said.

McConnell, R-Louisville, requested the funds, which have also been approved by Congress.

Older

Warren County population showing signs of 'age wave'

By ANDY DENNIS

The Daily News 11-19-93

Warren County is doing the "age wave."

The 1980 U.S. Census Bureau showed that there were 7,059 Warren Countians age 65 or older — about 9.8 percent of the population. By 1990, though, that had increased to 8,524 — 11.1 percent of Warren County's 76,673 people.

"Six thousand people a day reach the age of 65 in the United States," said H. Reese Honeycutt, district manager of the Social Security Administration office in Bowling Green.

"We are literally going to change the face of America when these baby boomers reach retirement age," he said.

The aging are becoming a valuable, sought-after commodity.

Knowledge of the aging is part of Honeycutt's business, as it is for Stephen D. House, executive director of Western Kentucky University's Institute for Economic Development and Public Safety.

House is heading a program funded by a \$100,000 federal grant to lure more retired people into Southcentral Kentucky.

"When those individuals relocate into your com-

munity, they bring financial assets with them. For example, the average net worth of a migrating retiree is about \$250,000," House said.

More retirees is good for business as many large corporations and retailers are targeting the group in advertising and in their products, House said.

The institute's program — Retiree Attraction as an Economic Development Strategy — is aimed at this group of people, many of whom have either moved from where they spent their non-retirement years and who may be dissatisfied with their present location.

The age wave is expected to continue and leads to changes — some of which are evident in the amount of long-term care facilities.

Honeycutt said that he has seen an increase in the number of representative payees — those family members or others who the Social Security Administration appoints to take care of funds for those who

cannot manage their assets.

"As we live longer, at some point in our life we may not be able to take care of our financial affairs. We're more active with representative payees because of the increased lifespans," he said.

Those 80 and older comprise the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population, Honeycutt said. Those 65 and older comprise the second-fastest growing group, he said.

The experience and wealth of older Warren Countians and those who might migrate here "will be a very positive economic impact on Southcentral Kentucky," House said.

"It's changing the way we look at things. There are many models who are not of a very young age anymore. And more television shows and companies are gearing their products right now to that age group because of the demographic shift," Honeycutt said.

Teachers become artistic students

By ROBYN L. MINOR
The Daily News DN 7-29-96

With crayons, paint and magic markers on tables at Western Kentucky University's Institute for Economic Development, teachers had turned into students.

More than 100 teachers from across the state came today to hear a national expert discuss how art can be integrated into science, language arts and social studies classes.

Norma Lawless, a teacher at Union Chapel Elementary School in Jamestown, was surprised when she learned teachers would be the ones making art today.

"I don't really do that very much," Ms. Lawless said. "But I guess it will be good for me because my students often say 'I don't know how to draw that.'"

Mary Ernst, an elementary school art teacher in Westport, Conn., and consultant who spoke to teachers today, said art should be a much more integral part of learning.

"We've gotten the idea that art is just for talented people or is something that is just an extra," Ms. Ernst said.

Teachers were going to spend about 90 minutes drawing and then talking about their projects — much the same as teachers should ask students to do.

Art can be a bridge for students who are reluctant to read or write.

"It gives them a sense of confidence," Ms. Ernst said.

Even the smallest children's drawings have meaning, she said.

Teachers and parents should ask children to talk about their drawings — how they came up with the idea, what the drawings mean and what they were feeling when they drew the pictures.

"The next logical step would be to write about the drawing," she said.

Parents can continue the integration by taking children to art galleries and asking children what they see in the paintings or sculptures, Ms. Ernst said.

Ms. Ernst said the concept of integrating art with literacy clicked for her when she switched from teaching middle school English to elementary school art.

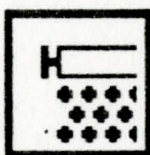
"I realized that I couldn't take the literacy out of my teaching art," she said.

She discusses picture books with about 500 students a week, talks with the children about what their drawings mean and asks them to write about them.

Institute for economic Development

Page 10-A 10-15-95 DN

LOCAL/AREA/ST



BRIEFLY

Association recognizes institute for its efforts

Western Kentucky University's Institute for Economic Development has been recognized for its efforts to attract retirees to the region.

The institute won second place in the economic development category in a competition by the National Association of Management and Technical Assistance Centers.

The program was implemented with the help of a \$100,000 Small Business Administration grant to purchase advertising to entice retirees to Warren and 10 neighboring counties.

Ribbon-cutting event is Tuesday for institute

5-9-94 DN

Ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Institute for Economic Development and Public Service, 2355 Nashville Road, will be at 4 p.m. Tuesday.

Trainer to speak today

By the Daily News

Jack Medina, known as "America's Personal Trainer," will speak tonight at Western Kentucky University's Institute for Economic Development on Nashville Road.

The event begins at 7 p.m. and will run until 9 p.m. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. with tickets available for \$5. Complimentary passes are available at The Heart Center of Bowling Green.

Medina has been lecturing throughout the United States for more than 20 years, motivating and teaching people about nutrition and risk factors for cancer, heart disease and hypertension.

While a coach at California State University, Medina developed 19 All-American gymnasts and three national event champions.

Medina has also served as strength and conditioning coach for the Oakland Raiders; Los Angeles Rams, Seattle Seahawks and Golden State Warriors. Medina's appearance is part of the Prevention Plus Health and Wellness Lecture Series.

DN

Sept. 25, 1998

Center is renamed for former secretary

By ROBYN L. MINOR
The Daily News

A former state economic development secretary will leave his mark on Western Kentucky University with the renaming of Carroll F. Knicely Institute for Economic Development and Conference Center.

The new name was unveiled Tuesday at Western's South Campus after Knicely donated \$1 million to various economic development programs at the school.

Former Gov. Martha Layne

Collins, under whom Knicely served, was at the announcement. The pair are credited with bringing Toyota to Kentucky.

Half of his gift will establish the Knicely Professorship in Leadership Studies and will be matched by \$500,000 from the Regional University Excellence Trust Fund.

This is Western's 15th endowed professorship since the state created the trust fund for matching money in 1998.

"The most important things in economic development are educa-

tion and leadership," said Knicely, a former newspaper publisher who lives in Glasgow. "My interest in Western and the Institute for Economic Development is spirited forward because education is the basis for economic growth opportunities.

"Tying higher education to the economic development factor enhances education and economic development."

The leadership studies program will improve Western's position in that field, Western President Gary Ransdell said

"Leadership cuts across many academic disciplines and manifests itself in a variety of ways in education, business, humanities and social sciences," he said. "As a formal field of study, leadership studies seeks to improve students' critical capacities."

The rest of Knicely's gift will be used for physical improvements at South Campus. An empty shell adjacent to the conference center will be renovated with \$250,000, said Steve House, executive director of the institute.

"This will provide additional seminar and training facilities to expand our program ...," he said.

The remaining \$250,000 will establish the Knicely Endowment, which will provide a permanent source of annual income to maintain and upgrade existing facilities and equipment.

Tom Hiles, vice president for development and alumni relations, called the gift "a fitting legacy to a man who arguably has done as much as anyone for economic development in the commonwealth."

AARC moves to Jax State

By Brian Lazenby
09-23-2000

Jacksonville State University is the new home of the American Association of Retirement Communities.

AARC is in the process of moving its national headquarters to the university.

The university's Center for Economic Development helped attract AARC to make the move from Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Ky. Pat Shaddix, director of the center, is also executive director of AARC.



PHOTO: Shaddix

According to Shaddix, Western Kentucky University received a federal grant in 1994 to get AARC started. Board members felt it was the right time to move the headquarters, Shaddix said, and JSU was the right place.

"We are extremely proud to be the host for the AARC and its membership," Shaddix said. "We have expended a lot of research and manpower in developing programs to help in the attraction of retirees for Alabama. Now we can utilize that expertise in assisting the economic development efforts of communities throughout the nation."

Alabama's program for attracting retirees to the state was discontinued during Gov. Fob James' administration, Shaddix said. He said he hopes moving the AARC to Alabama will help get the state program restarted.

Martin Darity, chairman of the AARC Board of Directors, said AARC is designed to promote the economics of communities through attracting retirees.

Anniston Star
9/23/2000
Online

"We're looking to learn a lot from the organization about the whole retirement community that we can use in northeast Alabama," said Dr. Mark Fagan, a JSU professor of social work and an expert on the impact retirees have on an area.

According to statistics provided by Fagan, an Arizona study showed that persons 55 and older spend \$16.8 billion annually in that state. The study also showed seniors are less likely than the general population to pollute the environment, and more likely to contribute to local philanthropic and service organizations.

"We (JSU) have more data on attracting retirees than any other university in the nation. We pioneered the state programs back in the '80s," Shaddix said. "We were the first program in the nation to work on attracting retirees to the state. We put the program together."

Shaddix, Fagan and JSU President Dr. William A. Meehan all say they believe JSU will receive statewide and national recognition by hosting the AARC headquarters.

"This is not only a great opportunity for JSU and the Center for Economic Development, but also a great reward for all that the center has accomplished over the years," Meehan said. "The relationship between AARC and JSU gives JSU another opportunity to have a positive impact on our community, our state and our nation."

Fagan will speak at the annual AARC conference at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi, Miss., Oct. 30-Nov. 1.

For more information about the conference, contact JSU's Center for Economic Development at 782-5700.

WKU job fair brings options to students

By **SCOTT SISCO**
The Daily News

About 100 employers filled the Carroll Knicely Institute for Economic Development Thursday, looking for students from Western Kentucky University to fill open positions.

Dela Horton, human resources employment analyst for Lexington-Fayette Urban County government, came to recruit firefighters. The government has an academy once a year and this year's will begin in April.

"It's a wonderful career opportunity," Horton said.

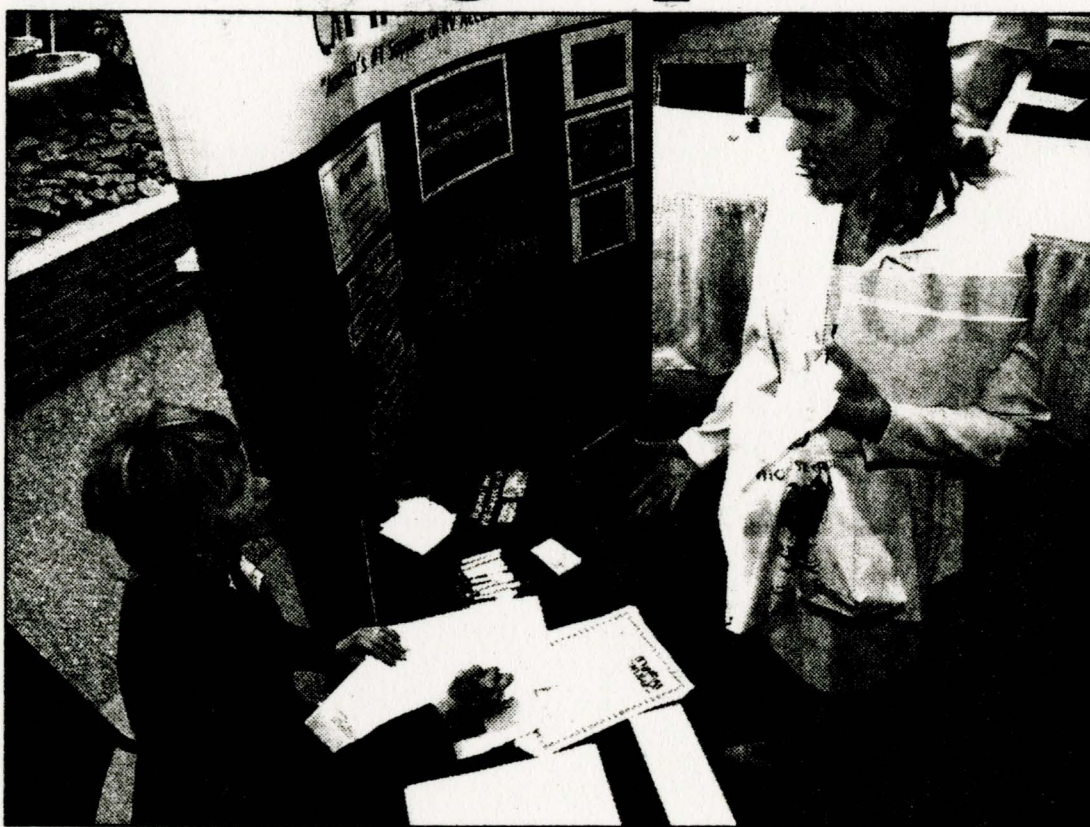
Jim O'Leary came from the Bering Strait School District in Unalakleet, Alaska, to recruit new teachers. He recruits from Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky for the school district, which is 80 miles south of the Arctic Ocean.

O'Leary said the district also recruits in Washington, Iowa, Arizona and Minnesota.

"That's our successful recruiting area," O'Leary said.

The Bering Strait district pays very well. A teacher starting out with no experience can make \$37,800 a year, plus benefits.

"You have to have an adventurous spirit," O'Leary said. "It is cold, but it's like anything else in life, you get used to it."



Tina Wright (left), a human resource supervisor from Camping World, talks with Western Kentucky University senior Joy Jones Thursday at the WKU Spring Job Fair.

Stacy Chilando, career specialist for Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, wanted to find some graduates from the hospitality and restaurant management major at Western.

"There have been several that we're definitely interested in," Chilando said.

Brandy Hardin, employee benefit specialist for Aflac, was looking for associates and management

positions.

"At every job fair, we get at least five serious people and we hire five people," Hardin said.

Jan Lewis, recreation therapist for Youth Villages, was looking to fill several openings for the agency that works with at-risk children and their families.

She talked to three potential new employees.

"That's better than nothing,"

Lewis said.

Laura Bennett, a folk studies graduate student at Western, came to the job fair to see what's available when she graduates in May.

"I'm just looking at my options," Bennett said.

Hickman senior Amanda Cleek was looking for the "hardest job to find." She is a psychology major.

"There's hardly any jobs out there," Cleek said.

She did find some leads, like the Youth Village and Rivendale. Cleek said there were more psychology employers at the last job fair in the fall.

Peter Kimaru, an MBA student from Kenya, said there were fewer exhibitors than usual.

"Basically I found some interesting companies," Kimaru said. He set up an interview with National City Bank at the fair.

Upton senior Joy Jones stopped by to drop off resumes. She is graduating in May with a major in communications and government.

"I don't have any idea what I'm going to do," Jones said.

Bowling Green senior Wes Lloyd came looking for a job in the information technology field.

"You get to talk to recruiters," Lloyd said. "It helps you learn about the companies you're interested in."

Discovering Entrepreneurship



Miranda Pederson/Daily News

Danielle Oberst (from left), 14, Nick McIvor, 14, Paul White, 12, Kevin Tian, 13, R.B. White, 12, Austin Drexler, 12, and Johnathan Parsley, 14, work on a team-building exercise to move a marble several feet down an assembly line of wooden sticks Monday at Western Kentucky University's Preston Center during the Discovering Entrepreneurship Youth Camp.

Western drawing future business leaders

By COURTNEY CRAIG

The Daily News

ccraig@bgdailynews.com/783-3243

JUL 13 2005

To be a successful entrepreneur, one must have several qualities — creativity, responsibility, ability to lead and flexibility, to name a few.

Keeping that in mind, eight local students are learning about business this week during the Discovering Entrepreneurship Day Camp, sponsored by Western Kentucky University's Entrepreneurship Center. Through hands-on, team-building activities and guest speakers, the 12- to 14-year-old students are working together and individually to explore the possibility of starting their own businesses one day.

"It's a good opportunity to learn," said Nick McIvor, 14, who will attend Greenwood High School in the fall.

Tuesday afternoon, the students split into two groups to see who could create the tallest structure with Tinker Toys. The activity forced them to cooperate and listen to each other.

Earlier that morning, the group heard a presentation from Nick Todd of Henderson, who started Nick's Shaved Ice when he was 12. Todd, who graduated from Western in May, is turning the business over to his little brother.

"He talked to us about how he started his shaved ice business and made it really big," said Jonathan Parsley, 14.

Jonathan, who will attend Greenwood this fall, is already part of a business — he does work for Mike's Mowing.

Danielle Oberst, 14, the only girl attending the Discovering Entrepreneurship camp, said her goal is to own her own catering business.

"(Nick) showed us how he started his business and how much

See DISCOVERING, 2B



Miranda Pederson/Daily News

Western Kentucky University Intramural-Recreational Sports Assistant Director Brad Stinnett (from left) celebrates with Thomas Choate, 12, Danielle Oberst, 14, and Kevin Tian, 13 and other students after they completed a difficult team-building exercise Monday at Preston Center at the Discovering Entrepreneurship Youth Camp at the university.

DISCOVERING, from 1B

money he spent to start it," the St. Joseph Catholic School student said. "I know if I own a catering business, I would probably have to buy a lot more stuff. But there are lots of people doing it, so if they can do it, so can I."

But there are some risks and sacrifices to consider in business, including equipment that may malfunction and time spent away from family and friends.

"You might invest in a machine that doesn't work," explained Austin Drexler, 12, who will attend Drakes Creek Middle School.

The annual Discovering Entrepreneurship camp used to be held through Western's Business Development Center, but this is the first year the Entrepreneurship Center has held it.

It's led by Lynn Minton, associate director of the Economic Development Institute, and Kirk Heriot, who just left his post as associate professor of management

but decided to pitch in for the camp.

"What society, and we as a university, are trying to do is implement the idea that when they get out of high school and college, they can start their own business and be their own boss," Minton said. "We want to start that interest at a younger age."

The camp's activities are hands-on, not lectures, in an effort to get the kids engaged in the lessons.

During the rest of the week, the students will hear from more guest speakers and learn about packaging, naming their products, marketing and making commercials.

"We want to capture how eclectic the field of entrepreneurship is," Heriot said. "Entrepreneurs come from all walks of life. ... These are large and small lessons to be helpful to them. Hopefully it's a starting point."

College Heights Herald articles:

Asbestos has to be Removed from New Home, 9/9/1993
Budget Will Decide Fate of Institute, 2/27/1990
Center Helps Area Farmer Determine How to Improve His Hay Crop, 8/28/1990
Center Receives Its Third Largest Grant, \$600,000, 10/30/1990
Chemistry Professors Wei-Ping Pan & John Riley Work to Design New Steam Production System, 11/13/1990
Governor Wallace Wilkinson Trims Budget Request to \$3.5 Million, 1/11/1990
Idea to Bring Retirees Home Get a Boost, 4/5/1994
Institute Expected to be House in Property on Nashville Road, 8/29/1989
Institute Sponsors "South Link 2000," 9/17/1991
Joint Venture Between TVA & Western's Institute, Called South-Link 2000, 9/11/1990
May Move into New Home in 1993, 9/1/1992
Seven Businessmen Will Guide New Institute into Its First Year, 8/21/1990
Seven Chosen to Serve on Advisory Board, 4/26/1990
Stephen House is Named the Center's Official Director, 4/2/1991
Tax Proposal Improves Center's Funding Chances, 3/15/1990
Western Buys Bowling Green Center for \$700,000, 1/9/1990
Western Receives a \$50,000 State Grant to Begin Planning New Economic Center, 9/7/1989
Western Will Spur Area Growth, 4/17/1990
Western's Institute to Sponsor Second of Five "Innovational Series" Teleconferences, 11/7/1991
Western's Proposed Institute was Discussed at Economic Development Conference, 9/21/1989